GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2693
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2000
TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION LOSSES
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transmission and distribution losses of power in India is higher than other countries; and

(b) if so, the comparative figures in this regard and the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM)

(a) : The All India percentage transmission and distribution losses based on figures reported by SEBs/Powerutilities/Electrity Departments during 1997-98 is 24.44%. However, the States which have undertaken restructuring have reported T&D losses varying from 40 to 51%. The T&D losses in developing countries during the year 1994 vary from 5.51% in Republic of Korea to 38.80% in Dominican Republic.

(b) : Statements indicating T&D losses in India and developing countries are at Annex-I & II.

The reasons for high T&D losses are:

(i) Weak and inadequate sub-transmission and distribution system due to low priority being given to these works.

(ii) Large scale Rural Electrification programme undertakenin the country resulting in long lines and extension of distribution network without strengthening the back-up transmission, sub-transmission and distribution system.

(iii) Too many transformation stages resulting in higher component of transformation losses.

(iv) Improper load management resulting in over-loading of system.

(v) Low power factor due to pumping load in rural areas; and air conditioners, coolers and industrial loads in urban areas and inadequate reactive compensation at the load points.

(vi) Low quality of construction and inadequate maintenance of equipment.

(vii) Unmetered supply to agricultural pumps and small domestic connections to weaker sections of the society in some States.

(viii) Pilferage and theft of energy.